THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE): (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Central Government from the Government of Assam.

(c) Does not arise.

Welfare Measures for Young Widows

8387. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare measures available to the young widows in the country, particularly in Delhi like age relaxation for appearing in the examinations for service purposes; and

(b) the details thereof and the procedure to avail those benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) and (b) Young widows are covered under the regular programmes which are being run for the welfare and development of women such as working women Hostels, creches, family counselling centres, NORAD, STEP, CCEVT, SEP, DWCRA, IRDP (40 per cent reservation for Woment) etc. For employment in Government services, a widow can be appointed on compassionate grounds, after the death of her husband, in accordance with rules passed for this purpose.

For the purpose of appointment to Groups 'C' and 'D' posts under the Central Government which are filled up through the Staff Selection Commission and the Employment Exchange, the upper age limit in the case of widows, divorced women and women judicially separated from their husbands who are not remarried can be relaxed upto the age of 35 years (upto 40 years for members of Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes) by invoking the provisions in the relevant recruitment rules. The age relaxation to widows has also been extended to group 'A' and 'B' posts except where recruitment is to be made through open competitive examination.

In addition to above, Government of India have included widows|divorced women under priority III in the list of categories to whom priority for appointment to Groups 'C' and 'D' vacancies have been allowed. These facilities have been given w.e.f. 17-10-1984.

The National Capital Territory Government of Delhi is providing financial assistance to widows under the Delhi Financial Assistance to Widows Rules 1988. Under the rules widows are eligible for a solution of Rs. 300|- to meet the contingencies resulting from death of husband and lump sum assistance upto Rs. 1500|- for starting any income generating profession/vocation subject to meeting the eligibility conditions *inter-alia* of domicile and having no regular means of subsistance and whole income from all sources including that of dependents do not exceed Rs. 750|- p.m.

The Department of Social Welfare, Government of Delhi is running Widow Home at Jail Road, Tihar, Delhi. This Widow Home undertakes the socio-economit rehabilitation of widows through education, vocational training, craft training, gainful employment family restoration and marriage (wherever feasible). Trained widow women are provided financial assistance of Rs. 5000|- as grant for rehabilitation. Admissions to the Home are given to widow women of 18 years to 45 years of age on their written requests.

Seminar of violence against women

8388. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Seminar was held in the capital recently on the subject of growing violence against women in the country;